a total cost of Rs.108.07 lakh with an outlay of Rs.72.90 lakh during 1996-97. Works at these stations are expected to be completed by March, 1998.

(c) Modernisation/expansion of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken on need based programme depending upon the overall availability of funds in each financial year.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Growth Rate of HCL/HZC

2060. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited and Hindustan Zinc Corporations have been working according to the expected growth rate of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the modernisation Plan and growth rate projection for Ninth Plan period of those organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Because of resource constraints, required investments could not be made by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) for expansion of smelting and refining capacity from 47500 TPA to 61500 TPA. Hence production of refined Copper remained almost static during the VIIIth Plan period.

Non-stabilization of the new Lead-Zinc Smeltar at Chanderiya and unremunerative prices of imported Lead Concentrates have resulted in lower than targetted production by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) during VIIIth Plan period.

(d) HCL has conceived of a plan for expansion of Smelter and Refinery at the Khetri Copper Complex from 31000 TPA to 100000 TPA during the IXth Plan period thereby increasing the smelting and refining capacity of the Company from existing 47500 TPA to 116500 TPA.

HZL has conceived of a plan to expand the existing Zinc smelting capacities by 20000 TPA and to set up a new Zinc Smeltar of 60000 TPA capacity during the IXth Plan period.

Aero Magnetic Survey on Minerals Deposits

2061. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Aero-Magnetic Survey was undertaken by Australia to explore the possibility of mineral deposit in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of diamond, gold and other precious minerals in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)and (c). An Area of 75,000 sq. km has been covered by aero-magnetic surveys by Orissa Government in Phulbani, Boudh, Bolangir, Naupara, Angul, Dhankanal and parts of Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj districts with the help of World Geoscience ltd., Australia. Data collected through survey require analysis and it is premature at this stage to indicate any steps for exploitation of the minerals.

Survey Report of Angamaly-Muvattupuzha-Pala-Erumely

2062. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received final report of survey of Angamaly-Muvattupuzha-Pala-Erumely railway line;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the work on above line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tower Telephones

2063. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tower elephones have been installed in some panchayats of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the cost of expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the number of such tower telephone which are unfunctional; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Village Public Tlephones have installed using MARR Technology in some Panchayats of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.

(b) There is Rs.80,000 on an average expenditure per VPT.

(c) Total 212 Nos. of VPTs on MARR system are unfunctional.